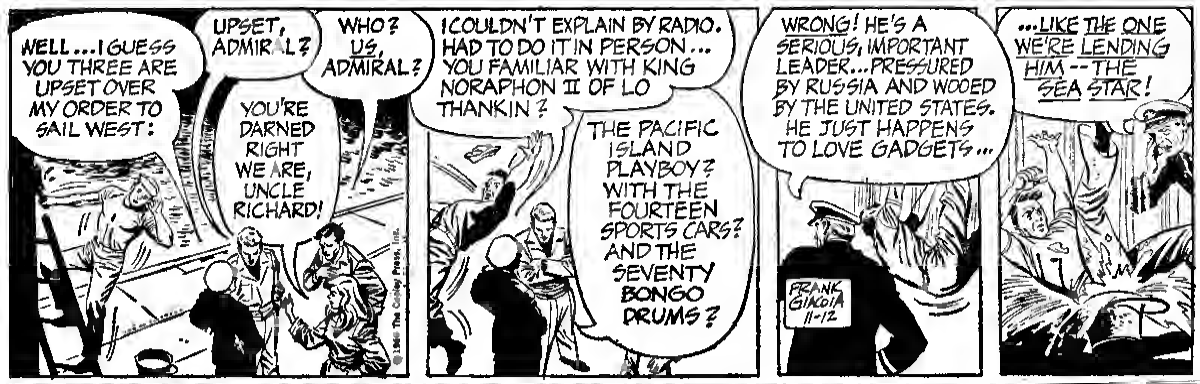
SO THAT'S THE MISSION: PRESERVE LO THANKIN FOR THE FREE WORLD. YOU CAN DO IT, ECHO--THORN. YOU'RE TOP-FLIGHT PEOPLE.
THIS TOPFLIGHT PERSON HAS BUTTERFLIES IN HER TOPFLIGHT STOMACH.
ADMIRAL... IS THERE ANYTHING YOU HAVEN'T TOLD US?
SURFACE! SURFACE! SURFACE!
©1966 The Copley Press, Inc.
AH-OOGA! AH-OOGA! AH-OOGA!
NOW, THORN!... WHAT IF THERE IS? IT'S TOO VAGUE TO MENTION YET. AND YOU'RE NOT TO WORRY ...YOU, TOO, BALDY!
ME, SUH? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO WORRY ABOUT! SO HOW CAN I WORRY?
FRANK GIACOIA
MY BOY... YOU'RE A BRILLIANT... ALERT... RESOURCE-FUL... PESSIMIST! YOU'LL FIND A WAY!

THE CONNING OFFICER CALLS McBRIDE....
CAPTAIN, FISHING BOATS ON STARBOARD BOW. WE'LL PASS WELL CLEAR, SIR.
VERY WELL... KEEP ME ADVISED.
©1960 The Conley Press, Inc.
LO THANKIN FISHING BOATS, ECHO... WE'RE ALMOST THERE-- THEN I'LL BE AT YOUR SERVICE... FORGIVEN?
YOU MAKE ME HUMBLE, THORN ...I'VE ACTED CHILDISHLY-- YOU WERE ONLY DOING YOUR JOB...
FRANK GIACOIA
...AND WHEN I THINK ABOUT MY RESCUE, I REALIZE YOU DO YOUR JOB SUPERLATIVELY!
TAKES TWO TO TANGO... OR MAKE A RESCUE ...YOU WERE INORDINATELY FINE... INORDINATELY!
INORDINATELY? ...HEY! THEY 'TRADIN' INSULTS AGAIN?

Thorn McBride

By Giacoia and Simms

FAR OUT IN THE PACIFIC....
COPTER'S WAITING, ADMIRAL... YOU'RE STILL NOT GOING TO TELL CAPTAIN McBRIDE ALL ABOUT ME?
HE'LL HAVE ENOUGH SHOCKS WITHOUT THAT, FATHOM ... JUST NOW.
FRANK GIACOIA 11-10
THE SEA STAR'S BRIDGE...
CAP'N, THIS SIGNAL JUST CAME: "COPTER ARRIVING AT 1500" AN' THERE SHE IS! HOW'S THAT FOR ADVANCE NOTICE?
NOTHING COULD SURPRISE ME! NOT EVEN IF ADMIRAL HUMBOLDT CAME OUT OF THAT CHOPPER AND COMPLAINED ABOUT YOUR CIGAR.
©1968 The Copley Press, Inc.
HIM, CAP'N? NO, SUH! HE MAY HATE CIGARS, BUT EVEN HE WOULDN'T DROP IN WITHOUT WARNIN'!


WELL... I GUESS YOU THREE ARE UPSET OVER MY ORDER TO SAIL WEST:
UPSET, ADMIRAL?
WHO? US, ADMIRAL?
YOU'RE DARNED RIGHT WE ARE, UNCLE RICHARD!
©1961 The Ogden Press, Inc.
I COULDN'T EXPLAIN BY RADIO. HAD TO DO IT IN PERSON... YOU FAMILIAR WITH KING NORAPHON II OF LO THANKIN?
THE PACIFIC ISLAND PLAYBOY? WITH THE FOURTEEN SPORTS CARS? AND THE SEVENTY BONGO DRUMS?
WRONG! HE'S A SERIOUS, IMPORTANT LEADER... PRESSURED BY RUSSIA AND WOOED BY THE UNITED STATES. HE JUST HAPPENS TO LOVE GADGETS...
FRANK GIACOIA 11-12
...LIKE THE ONE WE'RE LENDING HIM -- THE SEA STAR!

OOOPS! ONE SIGN GOT LEFT UP!
THE LO THANKIN MISSION WILL BE GREAT...
ADMIRALS AND OTHERS ARE ALL INVITED TO A COMIC MOVIE AT 8 P.M.
RIGHT, ADMIRAL!
GOT TO COVER UP THAT THING!
... YOU CAN TEST THOSE NEW DEVICES IN TROPIC WATERS ... BESIDES, SOME CONFUSED PEOPLE DOWN THERE HAVE BEEN PERSUADED THAT RUSSIA INVENTED THE WHEEL AND..
FRANK GIACOIA
...AND AMERICA THE FLAT TIRE. THEY NEED TO SEE THIS SUB... THORN! QUIT HIDING HALF OF THAT BLASTED SIGN!
ADMIRALS ARE ALL COMIC

IT SEEMS THE FISH AROUND LO THANKIN HAVE VANISHED. HUNGRY PEOPLE ARE ASKING WHY...AND KING NORAPHON WANTS THE ANSWER...
TH' STEWARD'S VANISHED, TOO. I'LL GET US MORE COFFEE, GENTLEMEN.
11/15
THE KING TOLD US--AND RUSSIA --HE NEEDS AN OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH MISSION--RIGHT NOW... WE'VE GOT TO BEAT RUSSIA IN GETTING ONE TO HIM...
BALDY, WATCH THAT TRAY!
RIGHT, CAP'N.
LUCKILY, WE'VE GOT A TOP OCEANOGRAPHER ABOARD. THIS SUBMARINE CAN RUSH HER TO LO THANKIN AND HELP IN HER RESEARCH.
STEADY, BALDY! YOU'LL DROP THOSE CUPS.
CAP'N CROCK
SO, THORN... GUESS THAT SORT OF MAKES ECHO YOUR BOSS!
FRANK GIACOIA
CR-R-R-ASH!
BALDY!
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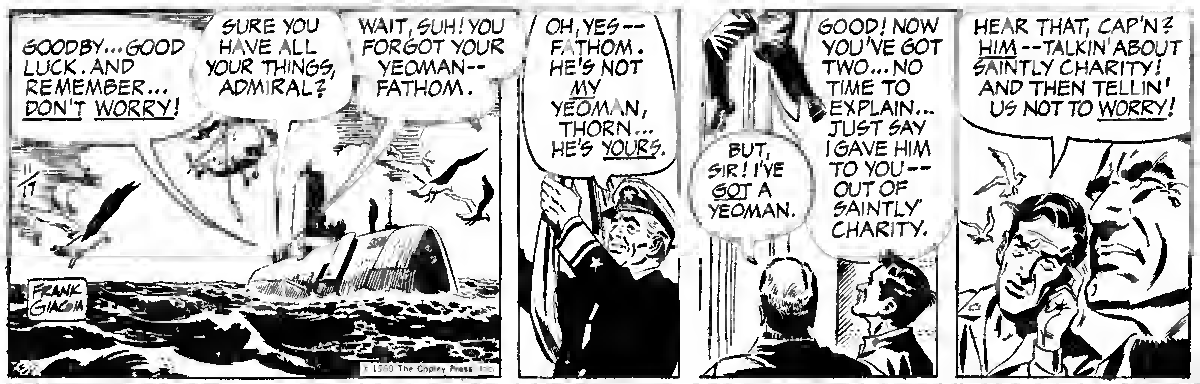
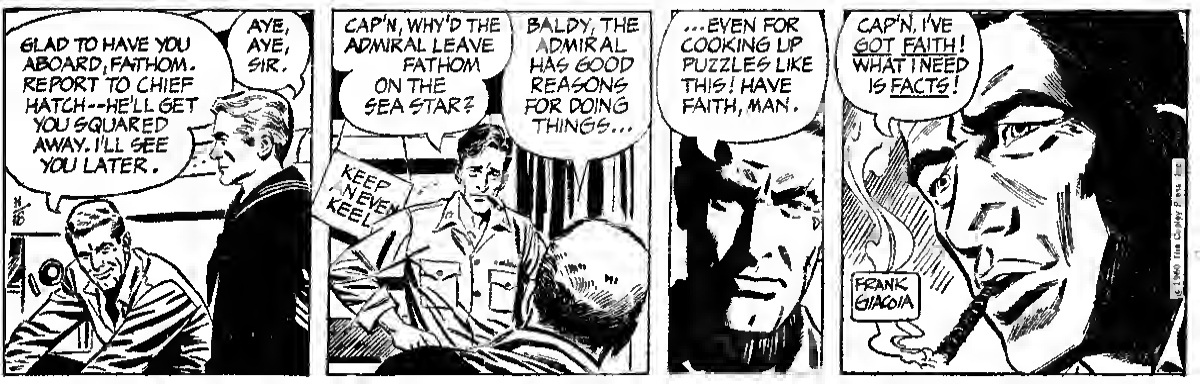
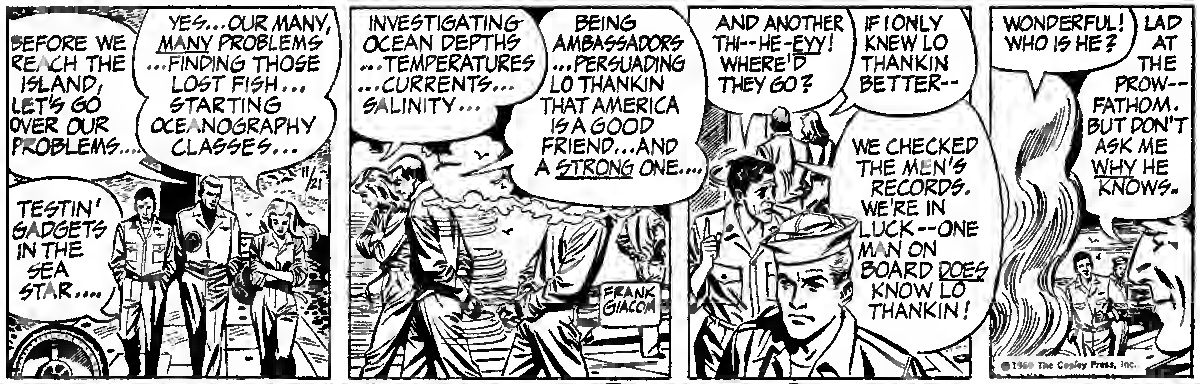
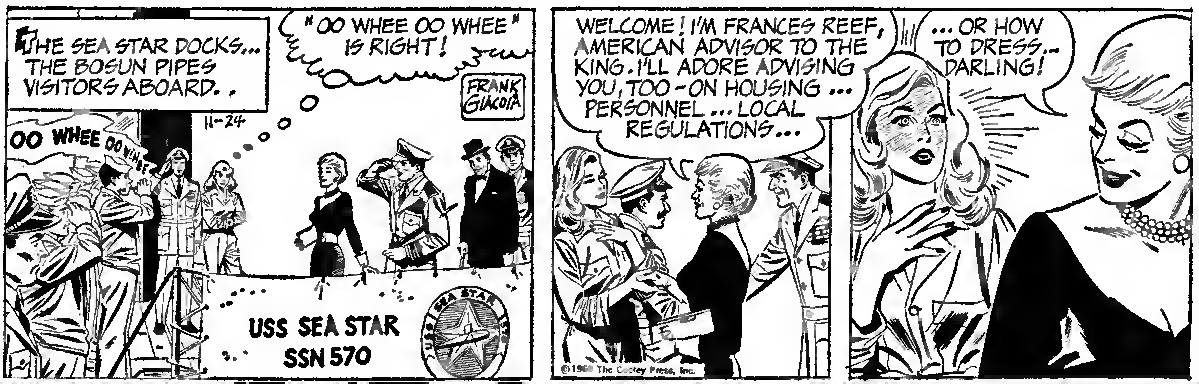

GOODBY...GOOD LUCK. AND REMEMBER... DON'T WORRY!
SURE YOU HAVE ALL YOUR THINGS, ADMIRAL?
WAIT, SUH! YOU FORGOT YOUR YEOMAN-- FATHOM.
FRANK GIACOIA
© 1960 The Chicago Press Inc.
OH, YES-- FATHOM. HE'S NOT MY YEOMAN, THORN... HE'S YOURS.
BUT, SIR! I'VE GOT A YEOMAN.
GOOD! NOW YOU'VE GOT TWO...NO TIME TO EXPLAIN... JUST SAY I GAVE HIM TO YOU-- OUT OF SAINTLY CHARITY.
HEAR THAT, CAP'N? HIM--TALKIN' ABOUT SAINTLY CHARITY! AND THEN TELLIN' US NOT TO WORRY!

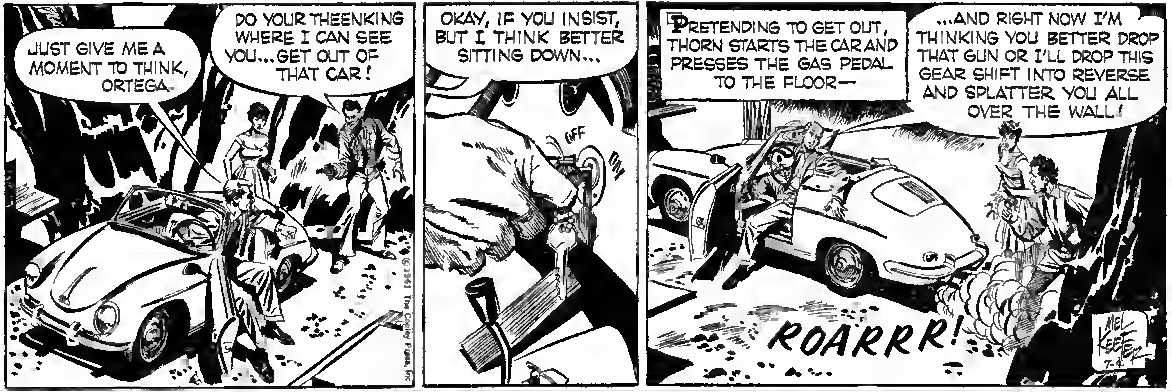

GLAD TO HAVE YOU ABOARD, FATHOM. REPORT TO CHIEF HATCH--HE'LL GET YOU SQUARED AWAY. I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
AYE, AYE, SIR.
CAP'N, WHY'D THE ADMIRAL LEAVE FATHOM ON THE SEA STAR?
BALDY, THE ADMIRAL HAS GOOD REASONS FOR DOING THINGS...
KEEP 'N EVEN KEEL
...EVEN FOR COOKING UP PUZZLES LIKE THIS! HAVE FAITH, MAN.
CAP'N. I'VE GOT FAITH! WHAT I NEED IS FACTS!
FRANK GIACOIA


BEFORE WE REACH THE ISLAND, LET'S GO OVER OUR PROBLEMS...
YES...OUR MANY, MANY PROBLEMS ...FINDING THOSE LOST FISH... STARTING OCEANOGRAPHY CLASSES...
11/21
TESTIN' GADGETS IN THE SEA STAR....
INVESTIGATING OCEAN DEPTHS ...TEMPERATURES ...CURRENTS... SALINITY...
BEING AMBASSADORS ...PERSUADING LO THANKIN THAT AMERICA IS A GOOD FRIEND...AND A STRONG ONE....
FRANK GIACOIA
AND ANOTHER THI--HE-EYY! WHERE'D THEY GO?
IF I ONLY KNEW LO THANKIN BETTER--
WE CHECKED THE MEN'S RECORDS. WE'RE IN LUCK--ONE MAN ON BOARD DOES KNOW LO THANKIN!
WONDERFUL! WHO IS HE?
LAD AT THE PROW--FATHOM. BUT DON'T ASK ME WHY HE KNOWS.
©1960 The Conley Press, Inc.

SO THAT'S LO THANKIN, EH, FATH-WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN...ROBIN FATHOM? KIND OF FUNNY NAME...BIRD'S NAME, AIN'T IT?
IT'LL HAVE TO DO. WHAT'S YOURS, BY THE WAY?
SPARROW--SPARROW SPAR.PLAIN, EVERY DAY NAME...SAY, I HEAR LO THANKIN'S O.K.--NIGHT LIFE... BEAUTIFUL DAMES. YOU EVER BEEN THERE? LIKE IT?
NO, I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE--
FRANK GIACOIA
-- AND I HATE THE PLACE!
©1963 The Copley Press, Inc.


THE SEA STAR DOCKS... THE BOSUN PIPES VISITORS ABOARD. .
"OO WHEE OO WHEE" IS RIGHT!
FRANK GIACOIA
11-24
OO WHEE OO WHEE
USS SEA STAR
SSN 570
WELCOME! I'M FRANCES REEF, AMERICAN ADVISOR TO THE KING. I'LL ADORE ADVISING YOU, TOO - ON HOUSING ... PERSONNEL ... LOCAL REGULATIONS...
©1960 The Cowles Press, Inc.
... OR HOW TO DRESS.. DARLING!

THORN McBRIDE —By Kenneth Simms


JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT TO THINK, ORTEGA.
DO YOUR THEENKING WHERE I CAN SEE YOU...GET OUT OF THAT CAR!
OKAY, IF YOU INSIST, BUT I THINK BETTER SITTING DOWN...
OFF
PRETENDING TO GET OUT, THORN STARTS THE CAR AND PRESSES THE GAS PEDAL TO THE FLOOR—
...AND RIGHT NOW I'M THINKING YOU BETTER DROP THAT GUN OR I'LL DROP THIS GEAR SHIFT INTO REVERSE AND SPLATTER YOU ALL OVER THE WALL!
ROARRR!
NEL KEEFE 7-4